

2012-2013 Influenza Season Week 43 ending October 27, 2012

Note: Due to severe weather in the eastern United States, data from these regions are not complete and are likely to change over the coming weeks as more surveillance data become available.

Synopsis: During week 43 (October 21-27, 2012), influenza activity remained low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 3,036 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 43, 188 (6.2%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced low ILI activity; 49 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 5 states was reported as local; the District of Columbia and 33 states reported sporadic activity; Guam and 12 states reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

National and Regional Summary of Select Surveillance Components

HHS Surveillance Regions*	Data for current week			Data cumulative since September 30, 2012 (Week 40)				
	Out-patient ILI†	% positive for flu‡	Number of jurisdictions reporting regional or widespread activity§	2009 H1N1	A (H3)	A (Subtyping not performed)	B	Pediatric Deaths
Nation	Normal	6.2%	0 of 54	15	298	140	330	1
Region 1	Normal	0.2%	0 of 6	0	2	0	0	0
Region 2	Normal	3.3%	0 of 4	2	17	7	9	0
Region 3	Normal	1.2%	0 of 6	1	11	0	3	0
Region 4	Normal	9.3%	0 of 8	7	36	95	191	1
Region 5	Normal	3.6%	0 of 6	2	18	4	15	0
Region 6	Normal	3.2%	0 of 5	2	12	5	52	0
Region 7	Normal	13.9%	0 of 4	0	68	14	17	0
Region 8	Normal	3.2%	0 of 6	1	32	3	29	0
Region 9	Normal	4.2%	0 of 5	0	44	12	9	0
Region 10	Normal	7.2%	0 of 4	0	58	0	5	0

*HHS regions (Region 1 CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT; Region 2 NJ, NY, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands; Region 3 DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV; Region 4 AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN; Region 5 IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI; Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX; Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE; Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY; Region 9 AZ, CA, Guam, HI, NV; and Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA).

† Elevated means the % of visits for ILI is at or above the national or region-specific baseline.

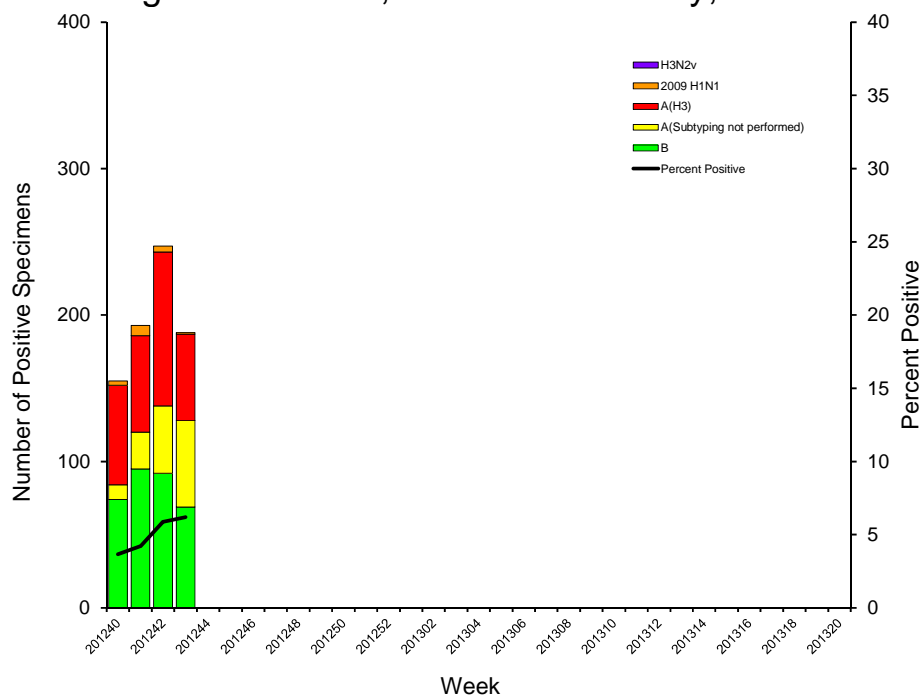
‡ National data are for current week; regional data are for the most recent three weeks.

§ Includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

U.S. Virologic Surveillance: WHO and NREVSS collaborating laboratories located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico report to CDC the number of respiratory specimens tested for influenza and the number positive by influenza virus type and influenza A virus subtype. The results of tests performed during the current week are summarized in the table below.

	Week 43
No. of specimens tested	3,036
No. of positive specimens (%)	188 (6.2%)
<i>Positive specimens by type/subtype</i>	
Influenza A	119 (63.3%)
2009 H1N1	1 (0.8%)
Subtyping not performed	59 (49.6%)
H3	59 (49.6%)
Influenza B	69 (36.7%)

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2012-13 Season



Novel Influenza A Virus: No novel influenza A virus infections were reported to CDC during week 43. A total of 310 infections with variant influenza viruses (306 H3N2v viruses, 3 H1N2v viruses, and one H1N1v virus) have been [reported](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-outbreak.htm) from 10 states since July 2012, with September 7, 2012 being the most recent date of illness onset in a confirmed case. The vast majority of cases have occurred after exposure to swine, though instances of likely human-to-human transmission have been identified. At this time no ongoing human-to-human transmission has been identified.

More information about the H3N2v outbreaks can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-outbreak.htm>. Additional information on influenza in swine, variant influenza infection in humans, and precautionary measures recommended during interactions with swine can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>.

Antigenic Characterization: CDC has antigenically characterized 9 influenza A (H3N2) viruses and 1 influenza B virus collected by U.S. laboratories since October 1, 2012.

Influenza A (H3N2) [9]:

- All 9 influenza viruses tested were characterized as A/Victoria/361/2011-like, the influenza A (H3N2) component of the 2012-13 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.

Influenza B (B/Victoria/02/87 and B/Yamagata/16/88 lineages) [1]:

- **Yamagata Lineage [1]:** One influenza B virus tested, belonging to the B/Yamagata lineage of viruses, was characterized as B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like, the recommended influenza B component for the 2012-13 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.

Antiviral Resistance: Testing of 2009 influenza A (H1N1), influenza A (H3N2), and influenza B virus isolates for resistance to neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir and zanamivir) is performed at CDC using a functional assay. Additional 2009 influenza A (H1N1) clinical samples are tested for a single mutation in the neuraminidase of the virus known to confer oseltamivir resistance (H275Y). The data summarized below combine the results of both testing methods. These samples are routinely obtained for surveillance purposes rather than for diagnostic testing of patients suspected to be infected with antiviral resistant virus.

High levels of resistance to the adamantanes (amantadine and rimantadine) persist among 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) viruses (the adamantanes are not effective against influenza B viruses). As a result of the sustained high levels of resistance, data from adamantane resistance testing are not presented in the table below.

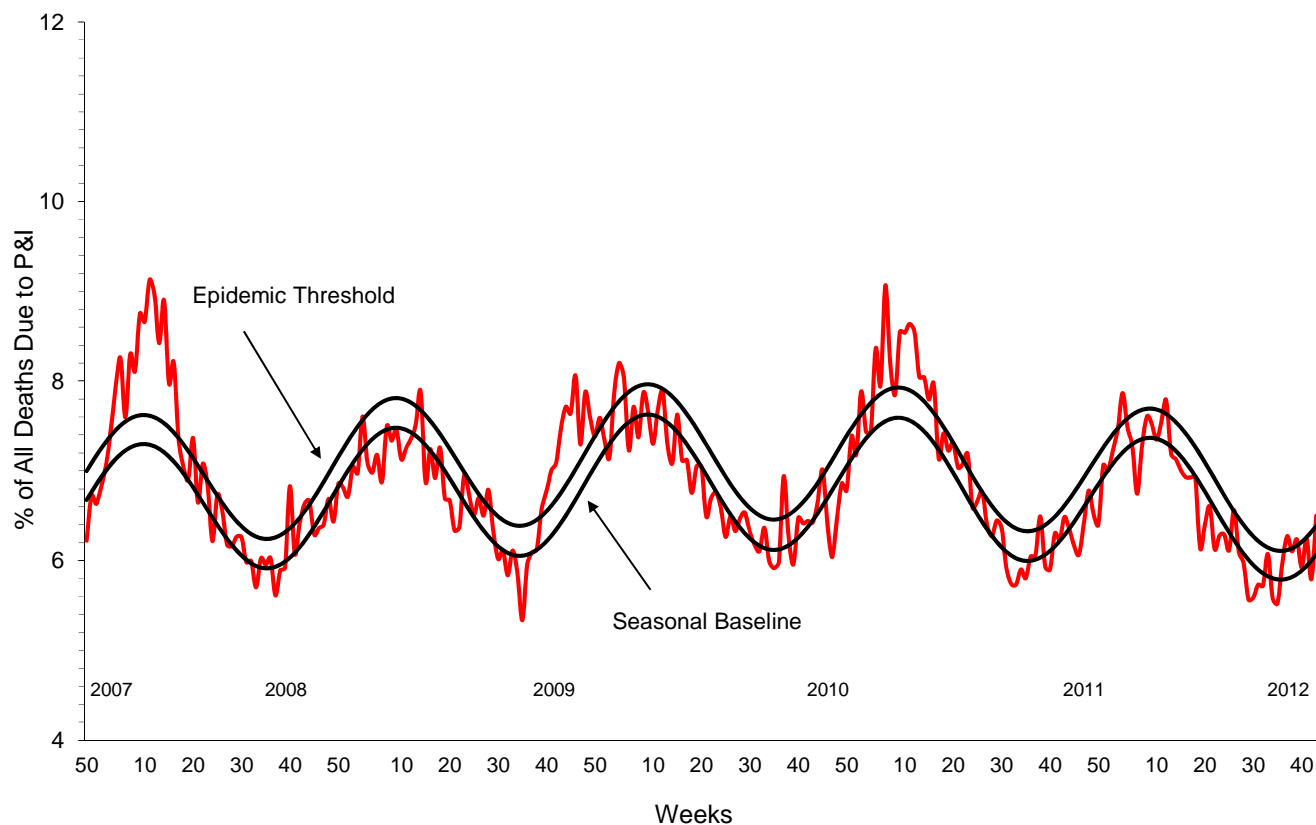
**Neuraminidase Inhibitor Resistance Testing Results
on Samples Collected Since October 1, 2012.**

	Oseltamivir		Zanamivir	
	Virus Samples tested (n)	Resistant Viruses, Number (%)	Virus Samples tested (n)	Resistant Viruses, Number (%)
Influenza A (H3N2)	23	0 (0.0)	23	0 (0.0)
Influenza B	29	0 (0.0)	29	0 (0.0)
2009 H1N1	1	0 (0.0)	1	0 (0.0)

The majority of currently circulating influenza viruses are susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications oseltamivir and zanamivir; however, rare sporadic cases of oseltamivir resistant 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) viruses have been detected worldwide. Antiviral treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir is recommended as early as possible for patients with confirmed or suspected influenza who have severe, complicated, or progressive illness; who require hospitalization; or who are at greater risk for influenza-related complications. Additional information on recommendations for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection with antiviral agents is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm>.

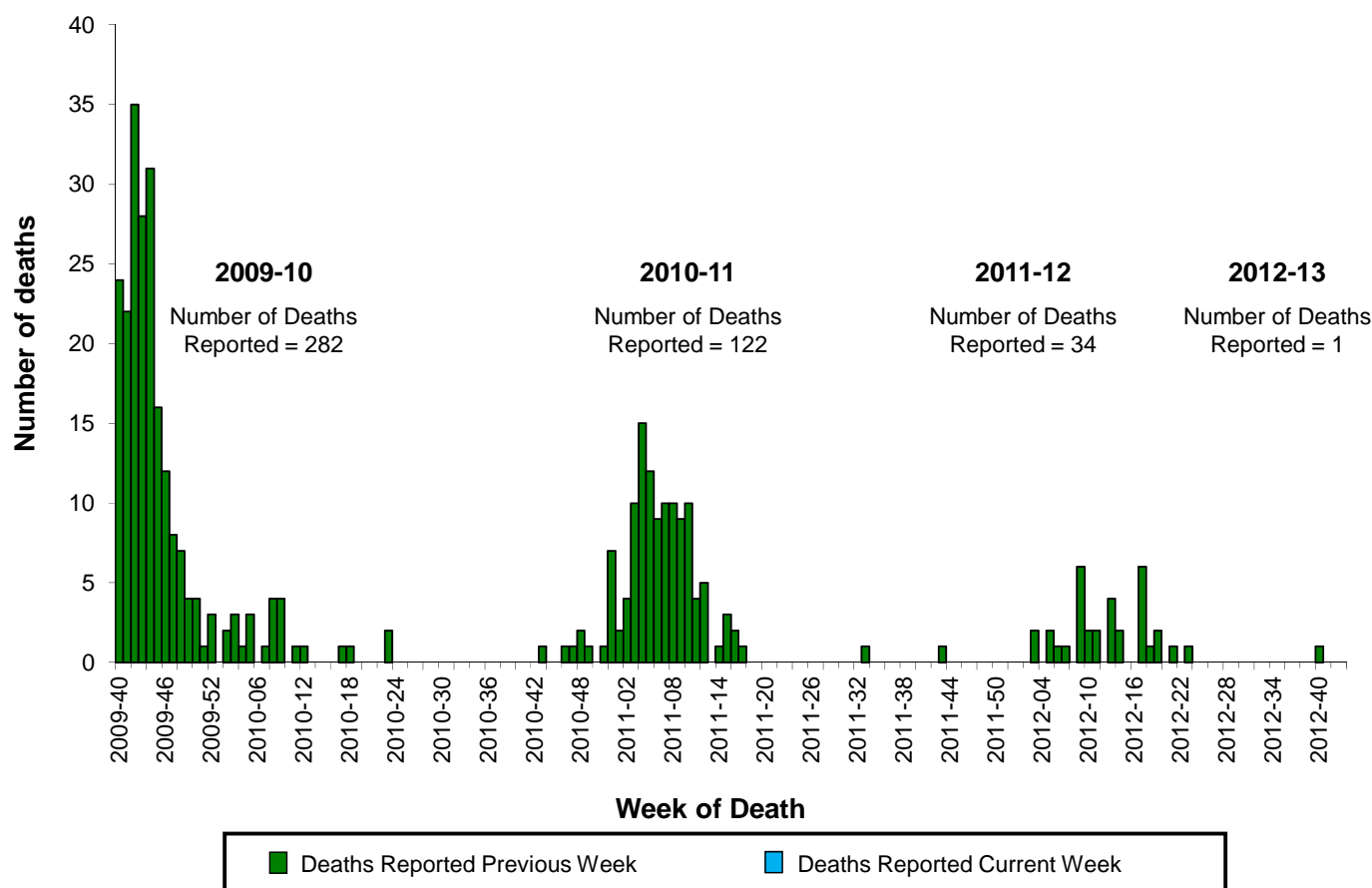
Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance: During week 43, 6.5% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was above the epidemic threshold of 6.4% for week 43.

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality for 122 U.S. Cities Week ending October 27, 2012



Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality: No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 43. One influenza-associated pediatric death has been reported during the 2012-13 season. Additional data can be found at: <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/PedFluDeath.html>

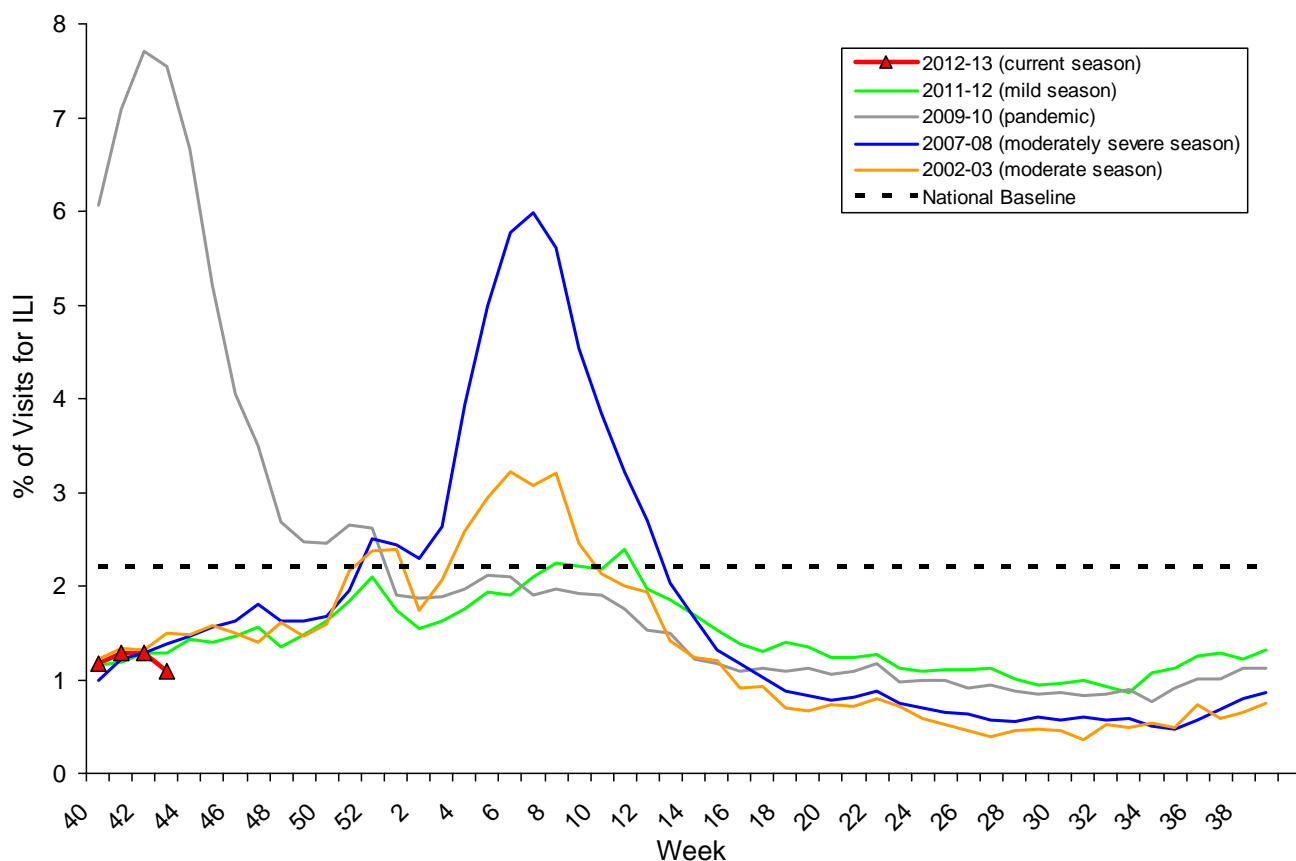
Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths by Week of Death: 2009-10 season to present



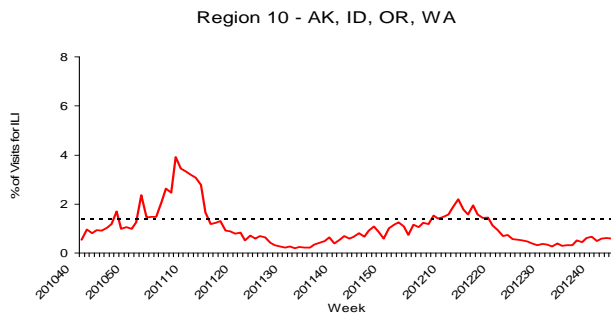
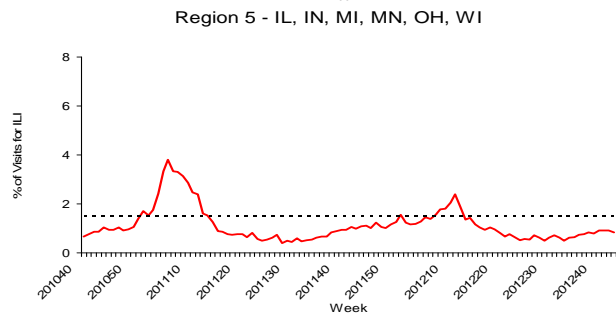
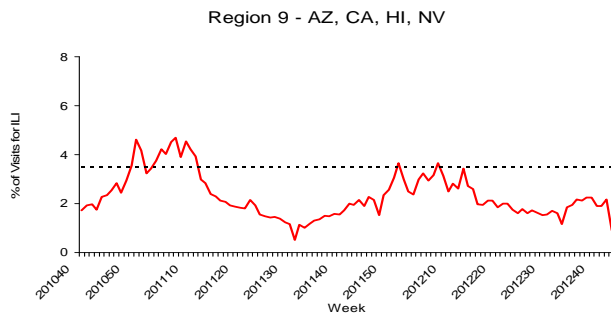
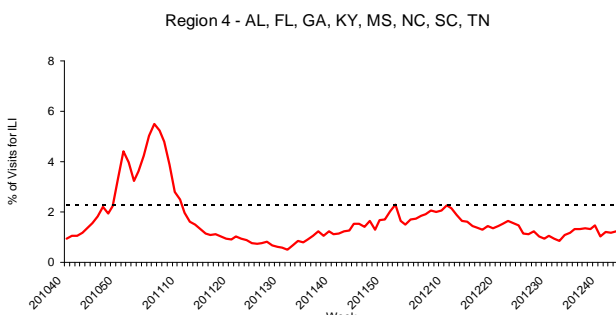
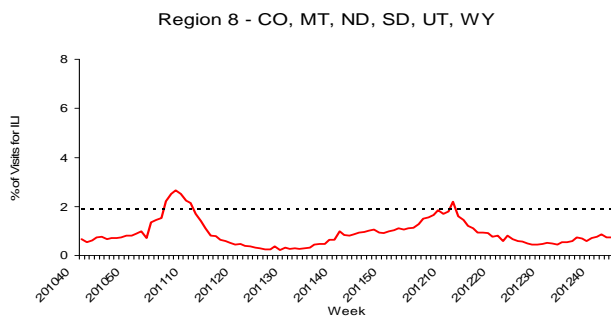
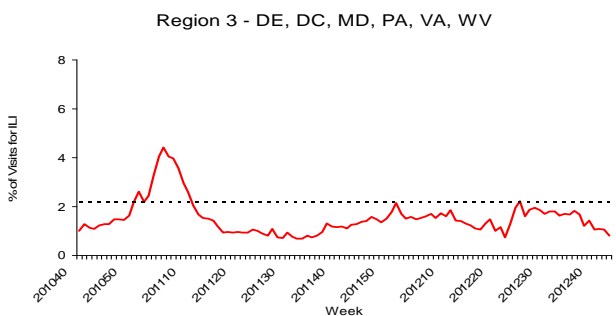
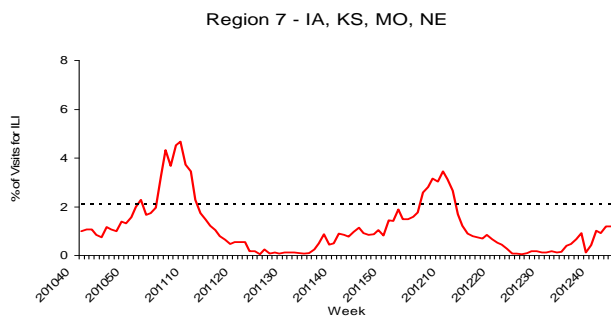
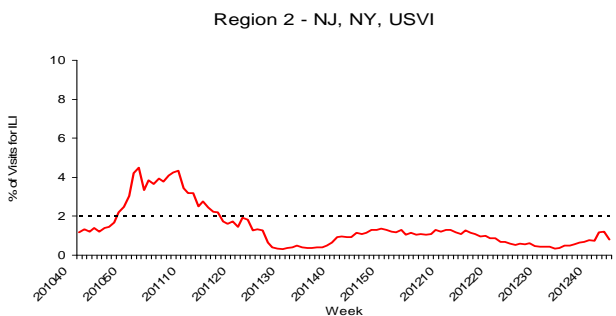
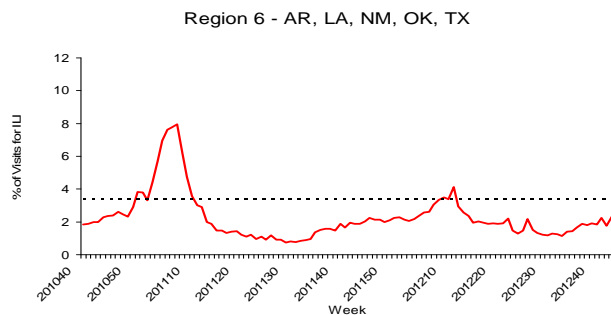
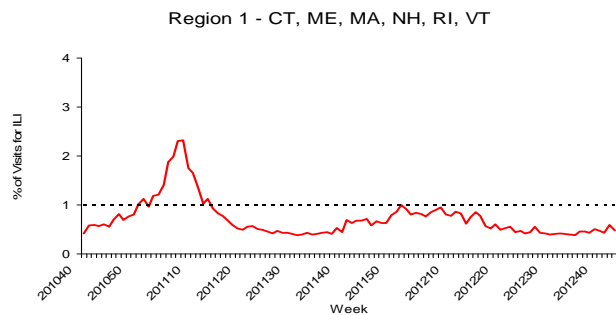
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations: The Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) conducts all age population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed influenza-related hospitalizations in select counties in the Emerging Infections Program (EIP) states and Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Project (IHSP) states. FluSurv-NET estimated hospitalization rates will be updated weekly starting later this season. Additional FluSurv-NET data can be found at: <http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>

Outpatient Illness Surveillance: Nationwide during week 43, 1.1% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.2%. (*ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and cough and/or sore throat.*)

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2012-13 and Selected Previous Seasons



On a regional level, the percentage of outpatient visits for ILI ranged from 0.5% to 2.3% during week 43. All 10 regions reported a proportion of outpatient visits for ILI below their region-specific baseline levels.



— % ILI Baseline*

NOTE: Scales differ between regions

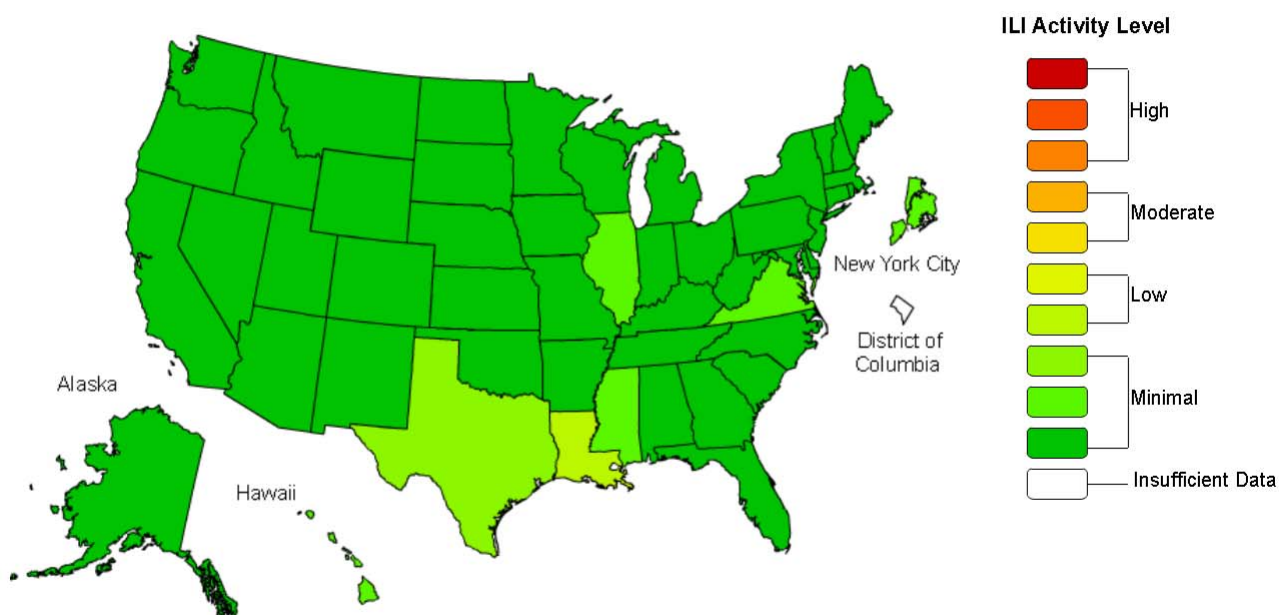
*Use of the regional baselines for state data is not appropriate.

ILINet Activity Indicator Map: Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity* by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. Activity levels range from minimal, which would correspond to ILI activity from outpatient clinics being below the average, to intense, which would correspond to ILI activity from outpatient clinics being much higher than average.

During week 43, the following ILI activity levels were experienced:

- One state experienced low ILI activity (Louisiana).
- New York City and 49 states experienced minimal ILI activity (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).
- Data were insufficient to calculate an ILI activity level from the District of Columbia.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
2012-13 Influenza Season Week 43 ending Oct 27, 2012



*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.

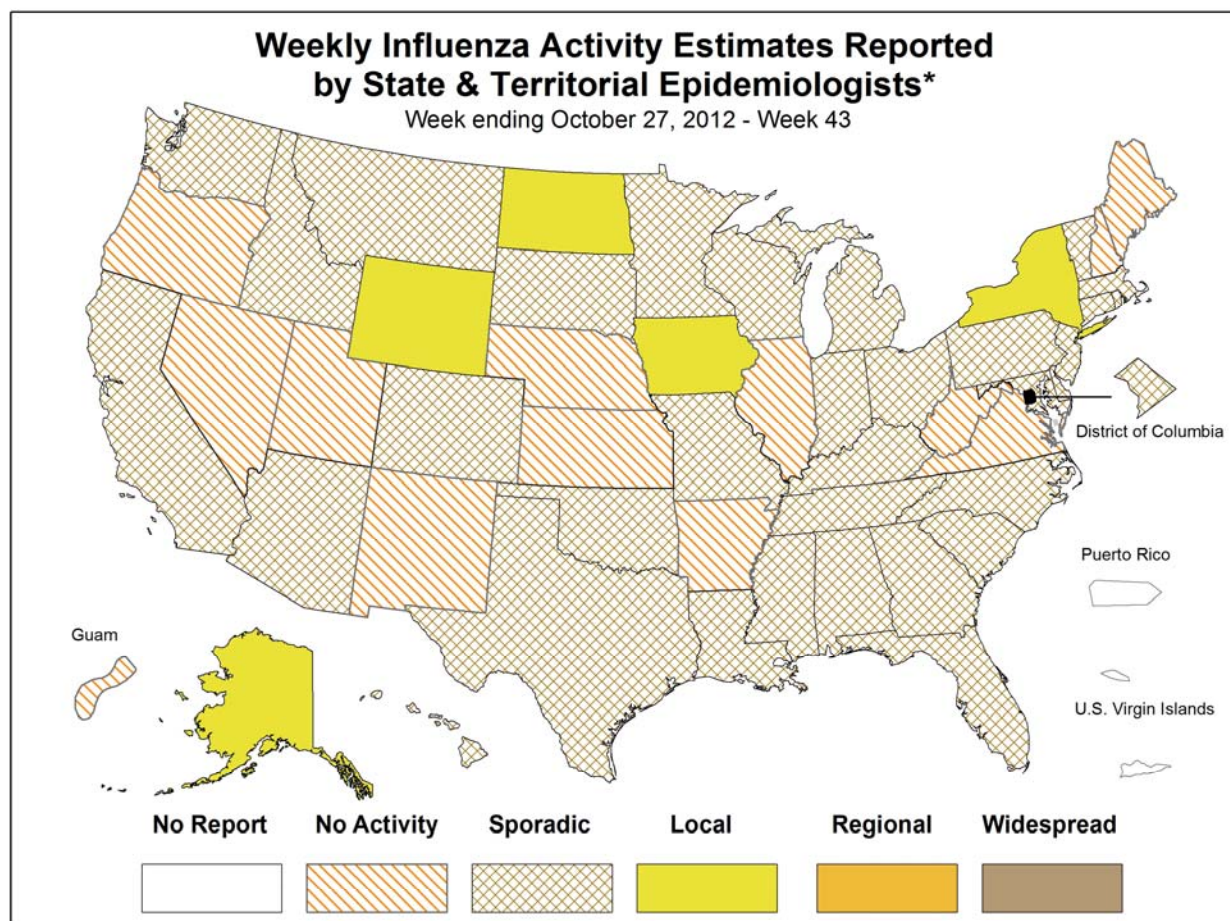
Data displayed in this map are based on data collected in ILINet, whereas the State and Territorial flu activity map is based on reports from state and territorial epidemiologists. The data presented in this map is preliminary and may change as more data is received.

Differences in the data presented here by CDC and independently by some state health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the state likely being the more complete.

Geographic Spread of Influenza as Assessed by State and Territorial Epidemiologists: The influenza activity reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses, but does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

During week 43, the following influenza activity was reported:

- Local influenza activity was reported by 5 states (Alaska, Iowa, New York, North Dakota, and Wyoming).
- Sporadic influenza activity was reported by the District of Columbia and 33 states (Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin).
- No influenza activity was reported by Guam and 12 states (Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia).
- Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.



* This map indicates geographic spread & does not measure the severity of influenza activity

Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information

FluView Interactive: This season, FluView includes enhanced web-based interactive applications which can provide dynamic visuals of the influenza data collected and analyzed by CDC. These FluView Interactive applications, allow people to create customized, visual interpretations of influenza data, as well as comparisons across flu seasons, regions, age groups, and a variety of other demographics. To access these tools visit www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm

U.S. State and local influenza surveillance: Click on a jurisdiction below to access the latest local influenza information.

Alabama	Alaska	Arizona	Arkansas	California
Colorado	Connecticut	Delaware	District of Columbia	Florida
Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Illinois	Indiana
Iowa	Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Maine
Maryland	Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi
Missouri	Montana	Nebraska	Nevada	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New Mexico	New York	North Carolina	North Dakota
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon	Pennsylvania	Rhode Island
South Carolina	South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Vermont	Virginia	Washington	West Virginia	Wisconsin
Wyoming	New York City	Virgin Islands		

Google Flu Trends: Google Flu Trends uses aggregated Google search data in a model created in collaboration with CDC to estimate influenza activity in the United States. For more information and activity estimates from the U.S. and worldwide, see <http://www.google.org/flutrends/>.

Europe: For the most recent influenza surveillance information from Europe, please see WHO/Europe at <http://www.euroflu.org/index.php> and visit the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control at http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/surveillance_reports/influenza/Pages/weekly_influenza_surveillance_overview.aspx.

Public Health Agency of Canada: The most up-to-date influenza information from Canada is available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>.

World Health Organization FluNet: Additional influenza surveillance information from participating WHO member nations is available through [FluNet](#) and the [Global Epidemiology Reports](#).

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A description of surveillance methods is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>
Report prepared: November 2, 2012.